

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 /111 W
-----084544 232104Z /75

R 231247Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9892
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, TH
SUBJ: NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH RTG

1. ON AUGUST 22 STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER JOEL SPIRO AND
EMBOFF MET WITH PROPAN VONKHORPORN, DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN
TRADE POLICY DIVISION IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE'S
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE AND KAMTORN CHITKONGTHAI,
CHIEF, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION DIV. OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. SPIRO CONSIDERED EACH MEETING AS USEFUL IN EX-
CHANGING INFORMATION. HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE
DIFFICULTIES OF THE U.S. FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, THE PRESIDENT.
IAL DECISION TO SEEK OMAS, AND THE CURRENT FOOTWEAR
PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT WE WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SHIFTS
IN TRADE WHICH REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OMAS AND
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OBSERVED THAT ASSEMBLY OF FOOTWEAR PARTS FROM OMA COUNTRIES
SEEMS TO BE TAKING PLACE IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES. HE
ASKED IF THE THAI OFFICIALS COULD EXPLAIN THE RATHER SUDDEN
INCREASE IN THAI NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S.
AND IF THEY HAD INFORMATION ON FUTURE EXPORT PLANS OF THE
THAI FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY.

3. MR. VONKHORPORN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN CUSTOMS AND THE INDUSTRY MINISTRY TO OBTAIN AN EXPLANATION FOR THE INCREASED FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. AND WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY OF HIS FINDINGS. HE SAID HIS FIRST INQUIRIES SUGGESTED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN AN INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF FOOTWEAR PARTS INTO THAILAND. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NOT THE POLICY OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE ASSEMBLY OF FOOTWEAR IN THAILAND FROM IMPORTED COMPONENTS AS THEY WANT THE INDUSTRY TO USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DOMESTIC RAW MATERIALS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND HAVE MAXIMUM VALUE ADDED. IN THIS REGARD HE MENTIONED THE INTENTION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO LOWER THE DUTY ON IMPORTED LEATHER BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF DOMESTIC LEATHER.

4. MR. KAMTORN SAID HE APPRECIATED BEING TOLD OF THE INCREASE IN THAI FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS. HE PROMISED TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OVER THIS MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE EARLIER REQUESTS TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF ASSEMBLING FOOTWEAR FROM OMA COUNTRIES RTG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS HAD NOT GIVEN IT ANY PRIORITY ATTENTION. SPIRO VISIT WAS THEREFORE HIGHLY USEFUL IN GIVING RTG OFFICIALS BACKGROUND AND PERSPECTIVE ON PROBLEM AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATING THAT RTG INTERESTS WERE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF THE U.S. IN THIS MATTER. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: RUBBER, FOOTWEAR, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: EIND, ETRD, TH
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